

The First National Bank in Marlinton was first named the Pocahontas Bank, chartered in 1891 with the building built in 1892. The building was used by a school, the Marlinton Drug Store and by Dr. J. W. Price before becoming a bank because of economic hardships during those years, but finally opened in 1899. The first stockholders met on October 25, 1899 with the following serving as directors: Captain A. F. Mathews, George P. Moore, L. M. McClintic, John T. McGraw, C. E. Beard, C. R. Durbin, W. A. Braton, Amos Barlow, J. P. Moomau, Levi Gay, and B. M. Yeager. November 22, 1899 the directors met and elected George P. Moore of Edray as President and R. L. McClanish as Cashier. They also opened for business that day as the Pocahontas Bank.

On October 2, 1902, with the permission from the Comptroller of Currency and the stockholders, the Pocahontas Bank became a national bank and its name became the First National Bank of Marlinton. The national bank opened with 250 shares of stock at \$100 a share for a total of \$25,000 of share and \$15,000 as capital stock. The new stockholders met on January 1, 1903 and elected G. P. Moore, C. E. Beard, L. M. McClintic, N. C. McNeil, Dr. J. W. Price, Dr. F. T. McClintic, and B. M. Yeager as Board of Directors. The stockholders agreed upon at least five and no more than ten directors serving the bank. On January 20, 1903 the new by-laws were authorized by the Comptroller of the Currency.

In November 1902 the bank burned along with other buildings of the town. The bank furniture was saved with equipment of the Marlinton and Ronceverte Telephone Co. whose central office was also in this building. The vault was opened the next morning and "All the money and valuable papers of the bank were in perfect order, and the vault itself was but slightly damaged." (From Pocahontas Times, Nov. 1902.) The estimated damage to the building was \$1,500 and the insurance coverage was \$1,000. The bank moved into the old Bank of Marlinton building until the new facility was completed.

On February 13, 1903 negotiations began with Pocahontas Development Co. to exchange four lots they owned with the First National Bank of Marlinton's two lots plus \$500 in cash. The bank also purchased a lot from Paul Golden for \$800 on March 3, 1903 that adjoined the four lots.

A \$15,000 contract was made with E. D. King to erect a three story structure on May 6, 1903. The first floor was for business rooms, including the post office. The post office was rented to N. C. McNeil and was paid \$15 a month and furnished heat and fixtures. The post office was given a five year contract on April 16, 1907 for \$275 a year. The rent then went to \$720 a year by June 13, 1911. On June 6, 1927, a ten year lease was signed with a cost of \$1680 a year which included equipment, heat, lights, water, and power for an area of 30 by 40 feet. The post office moved into their new building in 1938. The second floor was used for offices and the third floor was the Masonic

Hall. One room in the third floor was sleeping quarters for the cashier. Other business that occupied the building during the years included: dentist, doctors, lawyers, barbers, beauticians, coal business, taxi service, insurance agency, shoe shop, eye doctor, and a meat shop. *a separate building with property*

The bank operated with a cashier, a teller, and a bookkeeper until 1919 when J. W. Baxter retired and Miss Bessie Baxter filled in as bookkeeper until Harry Byers was hired. Miss Baxter became a part-time employee and was used as needed. During 1920 she became the stenographer for the bank and she was the first woman to be employed. In 1922 Edith Baxter was employed as a part-time employee.

The Board of Directors, at first elected the president, vice president, secretary, and had three committees: examining, judging, and a discount committee. The examining committee counted the cash, examined the notes, expense accounts, overdrafts, bond accounts, and ledgers for savings and checking accounts semi-annually, then later once a year. The discount committee reviewed the notes. The judging committee was used at the stockholders meetings to count shares of stock. These committees reported to the board as needed. The Board of Directors have a lot more committees that they must be involved in and regulations to follow. The employees of the bank were elected by the board each year. The first documented vacation was given to J. L. Wallace and J. W. Hill on July 18, 1910, each receiving one week's vacation.

J. A. Sydenstricker was elected Cashier on August 4, 1903 and served as a director and was Executive Vice President at his death in December 1955. He also served as a Class A Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond for thirteen years.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank of this town wanted to combine banks together on August 17, 1931. July 6, 1932 the three banks tried to consolidate but stockholders were uncooperative. On August 3, 1933 the bank closed, reorganized, and reopened on September 23, 1933 under the name of First National Bank in Marlinton.

The first woman to be nominated for a seat on the Board of Directors was Mattie B. Smith in January 13, 1925, but was not elected. The second woman, Florence Morgan, received a nomination on January 10, 1933, but was not elected. Not until February 4, 1984 did a woman finally become a member of the Board. That woman is, Louise McNeel of Hillsboro, WV. She is still a very active member today. She had helped with the stockholders meetings many years previous to becoming a director.

In 1990, the First National Bank in Marlinton merged with Greenbrier Valley National Bank in Lewisburg into Allegheny Bankshares Corporation. In 1993 became part of the Horizon Bancorp, Inc. located in Beckley.

Attorneys have been: L. M. McClintic, Allan Edgar, Judge S. H. Sharp, Eugene M. Simmons, Martin Saffer, Michael Doss, and Dave Arrington.

The two living retired employees of the First National Bank in Marlinton are Mr. James E. Michael - 1985 and Mr. William R.

McCarty - 1991.

The present Board of Directors are: William E. Kane - President, Harry J. Widney - Vice President, Phil McLaughlin, David Hambrick, Beulah Moore, Louise McNeel, Dolan Irvine, James Baxter, Jim Ryder Sr., John LaRue, And Harper Nelson.

The present employees are: Executive Vice President and CEO - Beulah D. Moore, Senior Vice Presidents - Phillip W. Cain and Hilda F. Shelton, Secretary to the Board and Vice President - Stella Callison, Vice President and Cashier - Marvinna C. Irvine, Vice Presidents - Judith S. Dean and James E. Cutlip, Assistant Vice President and Head Teller - Barbara K. Kellison, Operation Officers Karen G. McCoy, Sherry L. Moore, Beth L. Hill, and Angela J. Hill, Loan Officer - Brett G. Withers, Compliance Officer - Mary K. Clendenen, Operations Norman E. Walker, Julie B. Gibson, Patricia L. Crane, Anita D. Nelson, Margaret F. Hall, and Debra Kincaid, Collections - Gregory H. Cochran, Tellers - Frances McKenney, Susan McMillion, and Michelle L. Pyles, Part Time Teller - David A. McClure, Primetimer Coordinator - Ernestine Clarkson, and Custodian - Edsel L. Cain.

The growth of assets are reflected in statements of

1910- \$279,469.26
1940- \$605,465.85
1950- \$1,418,957.98
1960- \$2,145,256.89
1970- \$6,330,217.00⁹³
1980- \$23,632,965.00
1995- \$51,515,171.56

Some interesting accounts from previous meetings of the boards:

**What we call loans were called notes or papers.

The notes were discounted.

**In 1904 calendars were purchased for the customers.

**March 8, 1904 an adding machine was purchased costing \$375.

**December 20, 1904 insurance was purchased for the building for \$1.60 for \$13,000 coverage.

**On March 20, 1906 a \$25 reward was offered for the capture of person who forged a number of checks of customers of this bank.

**June 6, 1909, the first advertising was done in each newspaper of the town, costing \$25 for each paper.

(The Pocahontas Times and Marlinton Journal).

**April 20, 1914 purchased 34 shares in Federal Reserve of Richmond Bank at \$100 each.

**November 19, 1917 contributed \$25 to YMCA. The first documented donation to a organization, which becomes just one of very many from then on.

**The first documented bonus paid to the banks employees was on December 20, 1920.

**April 5, 1937 purchased a new vault door from New York Safe and Lock Company from York, PA for \$3,800. This was a vault door, steel lining, and cash locks. It was brought in by railroad.

**We became a county depository on July 1, 1932 and a

state depository on April 5, 1937.

**October 2, 1950 remodeled the banking room and purchased new furniture. We call this room the board room, but then it was called the banking room.

**June 1959, talked about a temperature and time clock.

**1959 and 1960 renovations to building, also adding fire escapes.

**1964 - 65 installed safe deposit boxes, drive-up window and night depository were added to building and parking lot was paved. New proof machine purchased.

**In 1970 complete remodeling took place and added a second window to drive-up. Security system installed.

**In 1985 with the flood waters, more remodeling was inevitable.